

## Craig & Ooola – Moonbeams and moon grumps

By Martin S. Beckley

Hello, my name is Craig, I am four and my best friend is an alien. Today I am helping Dad put old milk bottle tops on string. 'Why you do that?' Ooola asked. 'The birds keep eating Dad's blackberries so we are putting these up to scare them away,' I told her. 'Why you scare blackberries?' 'No, we want to scare the birds,' I said. 'Ok. Me have some sparkles to fix spaceship?' Ooola asked. Dad gave her a handful of milk bottle tops and she took them to her spaceship at the end of my garden. She licked the bottle tops with her sticky tongue and stuck them to the side of her spaceship. 'All done!' she said. Pointing to the moon that was still in the sky she said, 'Me go there now.' I suddenly felt very sad because my best friend was going away and I might not see her any more. 'Wait!' I called; I put the string in my pocket, and ran over to her. 'You want come too?' asked Ooola. 'Yes please,' I said and ran to ask Dad. Dad smiled and said, 'Ok, but be back in time for dinner.' 'Yippee,' I shouted as I climbed in behind Ooola. She began the countdown, 'Five... four... three... two... one,' the spaceship took off and we zoomed into space. We were so excited we giggled all the way to the moon. We landed on the edge of a crater with a bump. 'Me see field of lollipops,' said Ooola pointing excitedly into the crater and we rolled down the slope. 'Look, the lollipops have got sad faces,' I said. 'We are not lollipops, we are moonbeams,' said the moonbeams. 'Why are you sad?' I asked.

'The moon grumps – monsters from the other side of the moon – come and eat us,' they said. Just then we heard a grumbling noise in the distance. 'Is that thunder?' I asked. 'No, it's the moon grumps. Please help us,' said the frightened moonbeams. 'Blackberries!' said Ooola. 'Blackberries?' I asked. 'Sparkles!' said Ooola. 'Sparkles?' I asked. 'Sparkles scare blackberries away,' said Ooola. 'Oh, milk bottle tops to scare the moon grumps – great idea,' I said. We climbed back to Ooola's spaceship and collected all the bottle tops. The moon grumps stomped closer whilst we threaded the tops onto the string I found in my pocket. Then Ooola and I tied the string around the moonbeams. The moon grumps climbed down the crater and reached the moonbeams. The moonbeams shook with fright, rattling the bottle tops as they shook. The moon grumps ran away crying, 'Don't like it, don't like it!' The moonbeams were happy now and shone brightly. They said, 'Thank you for helping us. We will shine down and keep you safe at night time.' 'Cool,' I said. Then Ooola and I glanced at each other and said, 'Dinnertime! We have to go, goodbye.' We ran back to the spaceship, and whooshed home just as Dad was calling us.

